



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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## Advisory (Please Post)

TO: All MA Ambulance Services  
FROM: Jon Burstein, State EMS Medical Director  
Louise Goyette, Director  
DATE: October 10, 2003  
RE: Emergency Protocol Change Seizures 3.9 and 5.7

The purpose of this advisory is to include in the Statewide Treatment Protocols a change in the definition of the term, “Status Epilepticus”.

Currently in the Seizure Protocol: “Valium (Diazepam) and Ativan (Lorazepam) should be used to treat only those patients who suffer continuous tonic/clonic seizure activity for more than 30 minutes and who demonstrate signs of inadequate oxygenation, such as cyanosis.”

Effective immediately OEMS is changing this definition, based on recommendations by, the EMCAB Medical Services Committee, after a review, to read as follows:

**“Status epilepticus is considered to be occurring when it has been reported or is known that, a patient has been seizing for 10 minutes, or greater. The change to the patient treatment under the paramedic treatment section will be as a standing order to provide valium prior to contacting medical control.”**

**For pediatric patients administer Diazepam 0.25 mg/kg, IV or IO to a maximum single dose of 5-10 mg., or a rectal dose 0.5 mg/kg., unless contraindicated.**

**For adult patients administer Diazepam 5mg-10mg slow IV push, unless contraindicated. The definition will be changed in both seizure protocols.**

If you have any concerns or questions please contact your regional medical director and/or Thomas Quail, RN, Clinical Coordinator, OEMS.

It is your responsibility to ensure that your EMT-Paramedics read and understand this advisory. Thank you.